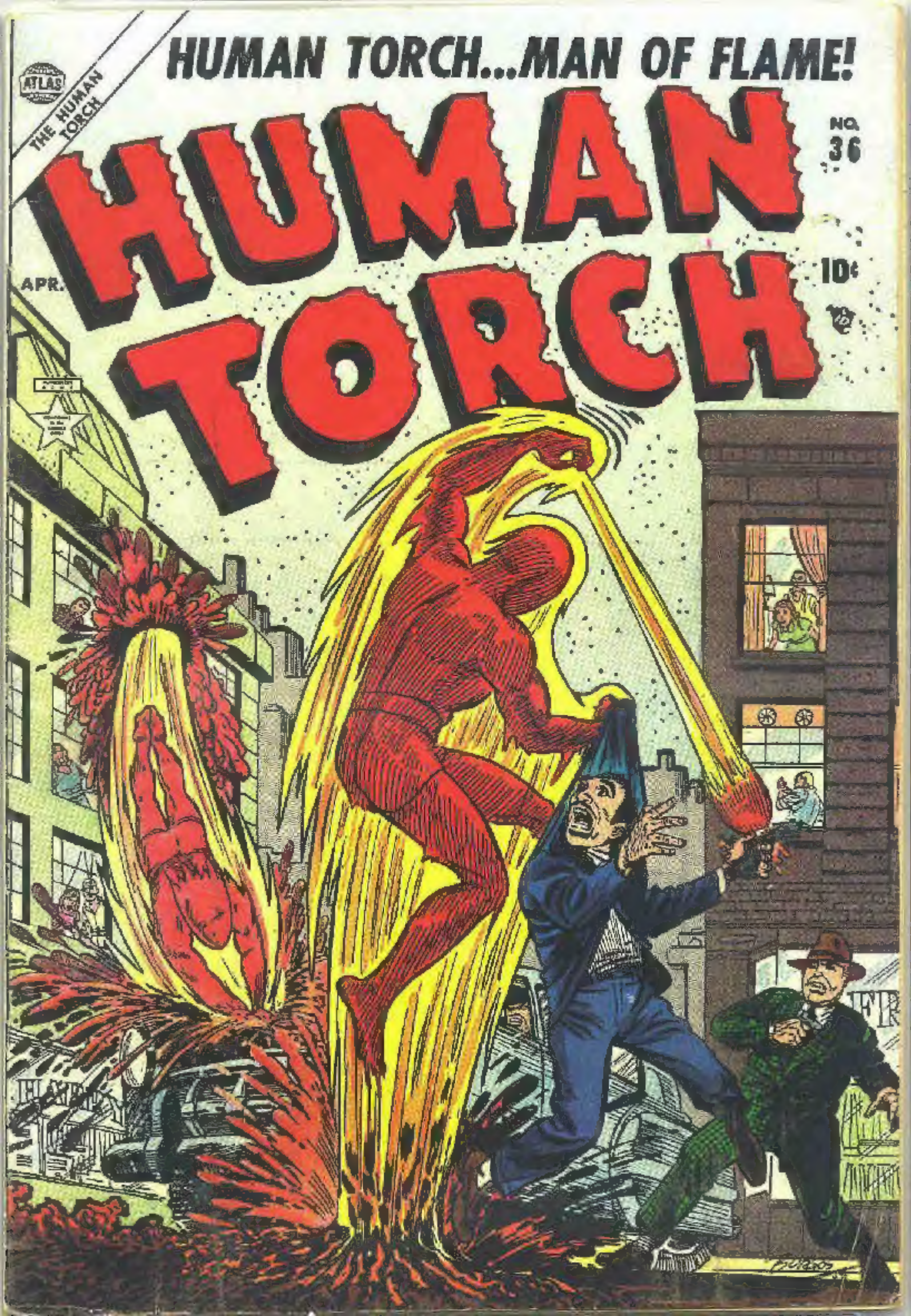
HUMAN TORCH...MAN OF FLAME!
ATLAS
THE HUMAN TORCH
HUMAN TORCH
NO. 36
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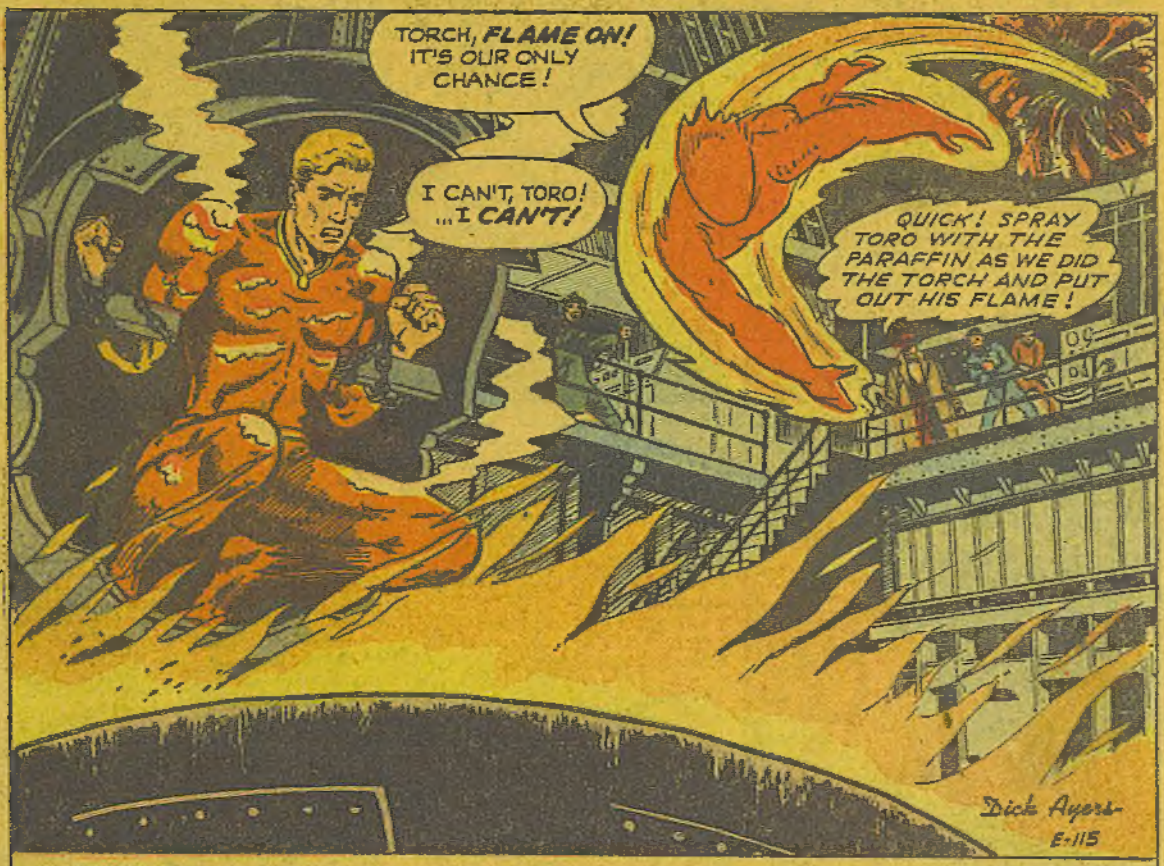
THE HUMAN TORCH

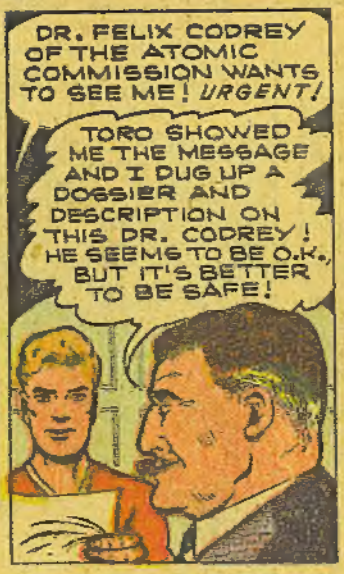

TORCH, FLAME ON! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
I CAN'T, TORO! ...I CAN'T!
QUICK! SPRAY TORO WITH THE PARAFFIN AS WE DID THE TORCH AND PUT OUT HIS FLAME!
Dick Ayers
E-115

IT WAS ONLY A TOY, A CHILD'S PLAYTHING! BUT THROWN ON THE SCALES OF FATE, IT WOULD DESTROY THE BALANCE OF WORLD POWER AND MAKE OUR COUNTRY A SOVIET SLAVE STATE... AND ONLY *THE HUMAN TORCH* AND *TORO* COULD SAVE AMERICA!

THIS IS A FINE THING YOU DO, BETTY, BRINGING FOOD TO THE POOR! IF THEY KNOW JUST *ONE* PERSON CARES, IT GIVES THEM HOPE!
I LIKE TO DO IT, TORCH! IT MAKES ME FEEL USEFUL! NOW HELP ME FIND A TOY FOR LITTLE BILLY ZANOWSKI! HE'S JUST RECOVERING FROM PNEUMONIA!
GIMP
Toys

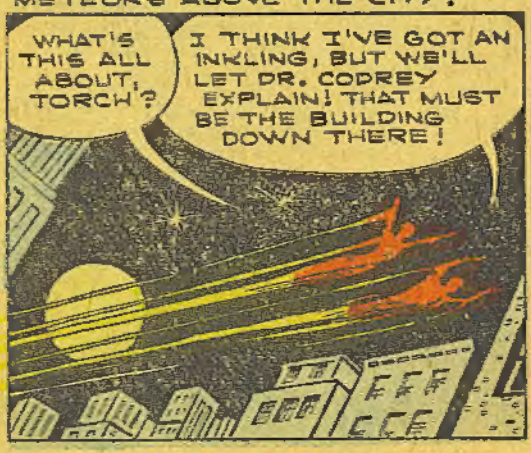
IF YOU'D COME TEN MINUTES LATER, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUY ONE OF THESE THINGS! THE FACTORY IS TAKING THEM ALL BACK! SOMETHING ABOUT A DEFECTIVE PART IN SOME OF THEM!
THEY DIDN'T NOTICE THE MAN FOLLOW THEM FROM THE STORE, THROUGH TRAFFIC TO THE SLUM AREA ...
CAFE
MISS WILSON, YOU'RE AN ANGEL!
GEE, AIN'T HE THE HUMAN TORCH?
THAT'S RIGHT, BILLY... AND HE HAS A GIFT FOR YOU!
IT'S AN ATOMIC BLASTER! OF COURSE IT ISN'T REAL!
BOY, IT'S SURE NIFTY THOUGH! MA, CAN I PLAY WITH MY NEW GUN OUT IN THE HALL?
ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T GET HEATED UP! YOU'VE BEEN SICK, YOU KNOW!
A FEW MINUTES LATER ...
THAT'S BILLY'S VOICE!
YOU LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU AIN'T GONNA GET MY NEW GUN!
HEY, WHAT GOES ON HERE! LEAVE THAT BOY ALONE!
HE'S TRYIN' TO GET MY ATOMIC BLASTER!
YOU STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG! NOW I SHOOT IT OFF!
FLAME ON!
GOLLY, IF THIS WAS ONLY A REAL BLASTER, I'D PRESS THE TRIGGER AND...
2

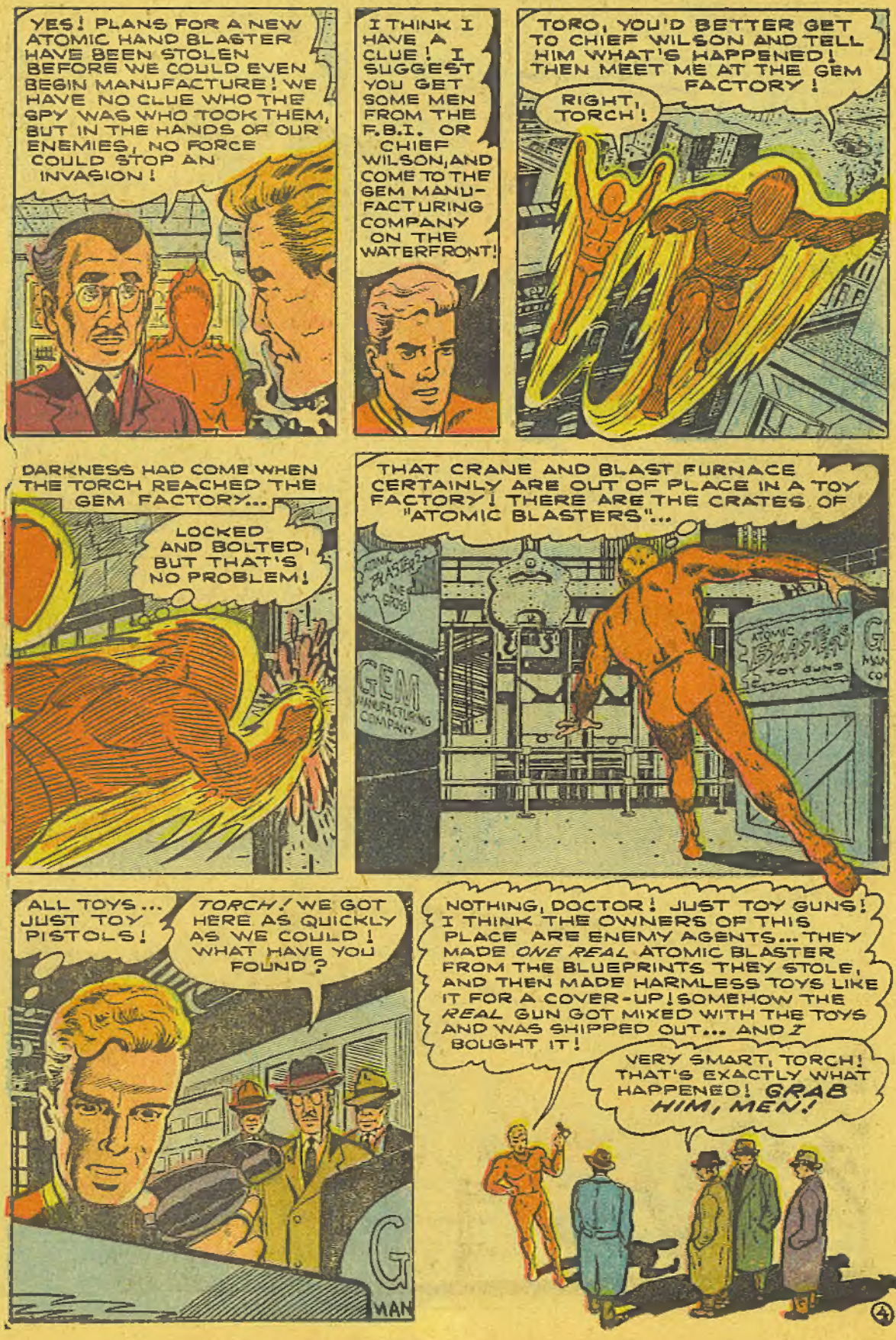
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO GET TO CHIEF WILSON'S OFFICE...


DR. FELIX CODREY OF THE ATOMIC COMMISSION WANTS TO SEE ME! URGENT!
TORO SHOWED ME THE MESSAGE AND I DUG UP A DOSSIER AND DESCRIPTION ON THIS DR. CODREY! HE SEEMS TO BE O.K., BUT IT'S BETTER TO BE SAFE!

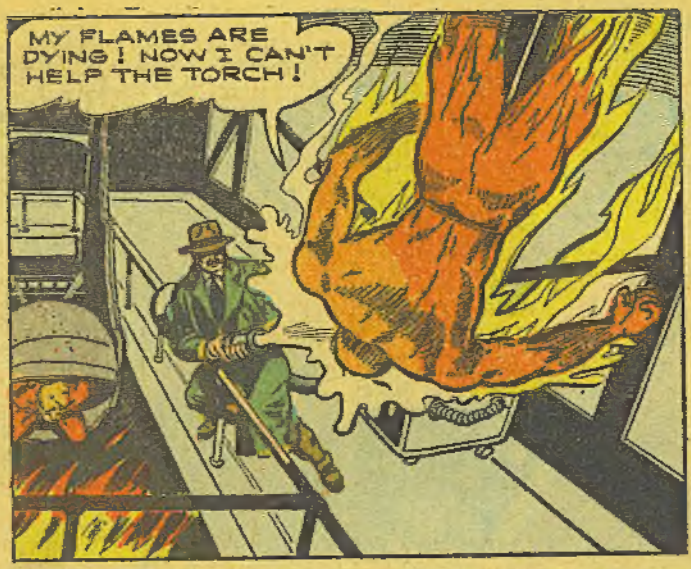
"DR. FELIX CODREY, NUCLEAR SCIENTIST... TALL, SLIM, DARK HAIR, LIMPS..." BY THE WAY, CHIEF, GET THIS GUN TO THE HEAD OF THE ATOMIC COMMISSION... AND DON'T TOUCH THE TRIGGER!
LET'S GO, TORO!

THE LEAPING FLAMES THAT WERE PART OF THEIR BODY CHEMISTRY OBEYED THE ORDER TO "FLAME ON!" AND IN A MOMENT THEY SHOT AWAY, STREAKING LIKE FLAMING METEORS ABOVE THE CITY!

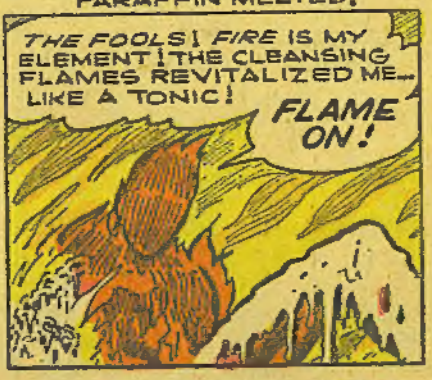



YES! PLANS FOR A NEW ATOMIC HAND BLASTER HAVE BEEN STOLEN BEFORE WE COULD EVEN BEGIN MANUFACTURE! WE HAVE NO CLUE WHO THE SPY WAS WHO TOOK THEM, BUT IN THE HANDS OF OUR ENEMIES, NO FORCE COULD STOP AN INVASION!
I THINK I HAVE A CLUE! I SUGGEST YOU GET SOME MEN FROM THE F.B.I. OR CHIEF WILSON, AND COME TO THE GEM MANUFACTURING COMPANY ON THE WATERFRONT!
TORO, YOU'D BETTER GET TO CHIEF WILSON AND TELL HIM WHAT'S HAPPENED! THEN MEET ME AT THE GEM FACTORY!
RIGHT, TORCH!
DARKNESS HAD COME WHEN THE TORCH REACHED THE GEM FACTORY...
LOCKED AND BOLTED, BUT THAT'S NO PROBLEM!
THAT CRANE AND BLAST FURNACE CERTAINLY ARE OUT OF PLACE IN A TOY FACTORY! THERE ARE THE CRATES OF "ATOMIC BLASTERS"...
ATOMIC BLASTER
ONE GROSS
GEM MANUFACTURING COMPANY
ATOMIC BLASTER
TOY GUNS
ALL TOYS... JUST TOY PISTOLS!
TORCH! WE GOT HERE AS QUICKLY AS WE COULD! WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?
G MAN
NOTHING, DOCTOR! JUST TOY GUNS! I THINK THE OWNERS OF THIS PLACE ARE ENEMY AGENTS... THEY MADE ONE REAL ATOMIC BLASTER FROM THE BLUEPRINTS THEY STOLE, AND THEN MADE HARMLESS TOYS LIKE IT FOR A COVER-UP! SOMEHOW THE REAL GUN GOT MIXED WITH THE TOYS AND WAS SHIPPED OUT... AND I BOUGHT IT!
VERY SMART, TORCH! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED! GRAB HIM, MEN!
4

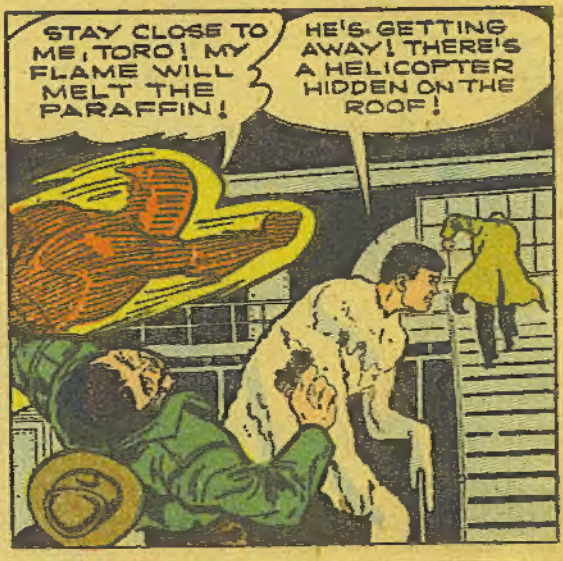
YOU SEE, TORCH, I OWN THIS FACTORY... I AM A SOVIET SPY! THE REAL DR. FELIX CODREY WAS KILLED AND I TOOK HIS IDENTITY TO GET THOSE PLANS! BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY!
FLAME ON!
YOU'VE TRAPPED YOURSELF, YOU AND THESE SNAKES!
THE PARAFFIN, QUICKLY! WE'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR YOU, TORCH!
ALL RIGHT, LET HIM HAVE IT! THE PARAFFIN WILL PUT OUT ANY FLAME, EVEN YOURS, TORCH!
HIS FLAME'S GOING OUT! GRAB HIM!
COATED WITH THE PARAFFIN, SCARCELY ABLE TO MOVE, THE TORCH BECAME EASY PREY FOR THE SPIES!
SINCE YOU ARE SO PARTIAL TO FLAMES AND HEAT, WE SHALL HELP YOU DIE THAT WAY! CHAIN HIM TO THE BEAM!
STILL FULL OF FIGHT, EH? WELL THIS WILL TAKE IT OUT OF YOU!
TORCH!
IT'S THE OTHER ONE! QUICKLY... THE PARAFFIN!

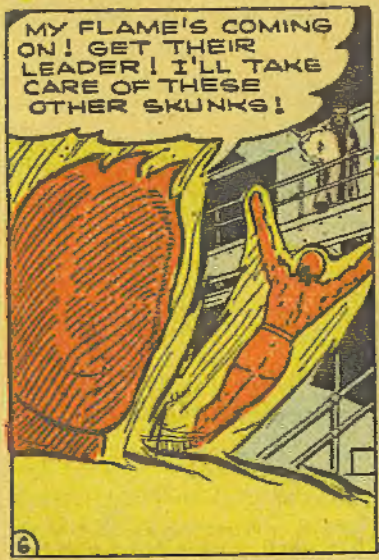


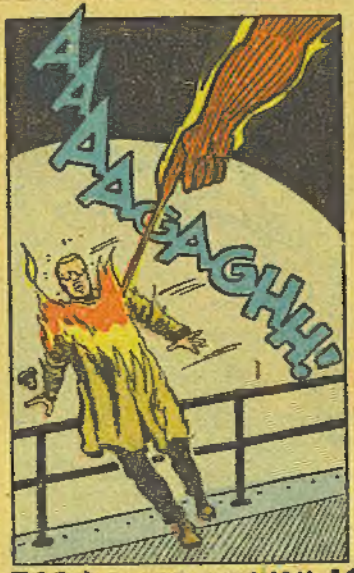
THE TORCH SLIPPED INTO THE WHITE-HOT, SEARING HEAT OF THE FURNACE! THE CHAINS THAT BOUND HIM MELTED IN A MOMENT! THE TORCH STIRRED; HIS BODY UNTOUCHED BY THE SHRIVELLING HEAT AS THE PARAFFIN MELTED!



I WON'T GIVE YOU THE ELABORATE DEATH I GAVE YOUR FRIEND! I'LL JUST RIDDLE YOU WITH BULLETS, THEN GET THAT BLASTER FROM WILSON, AND WITH THE PLANS I'VE GOT IN MY POCKET, TAKE OFF FOR MY COUNTRY!
YOU'LL HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS, SPY!



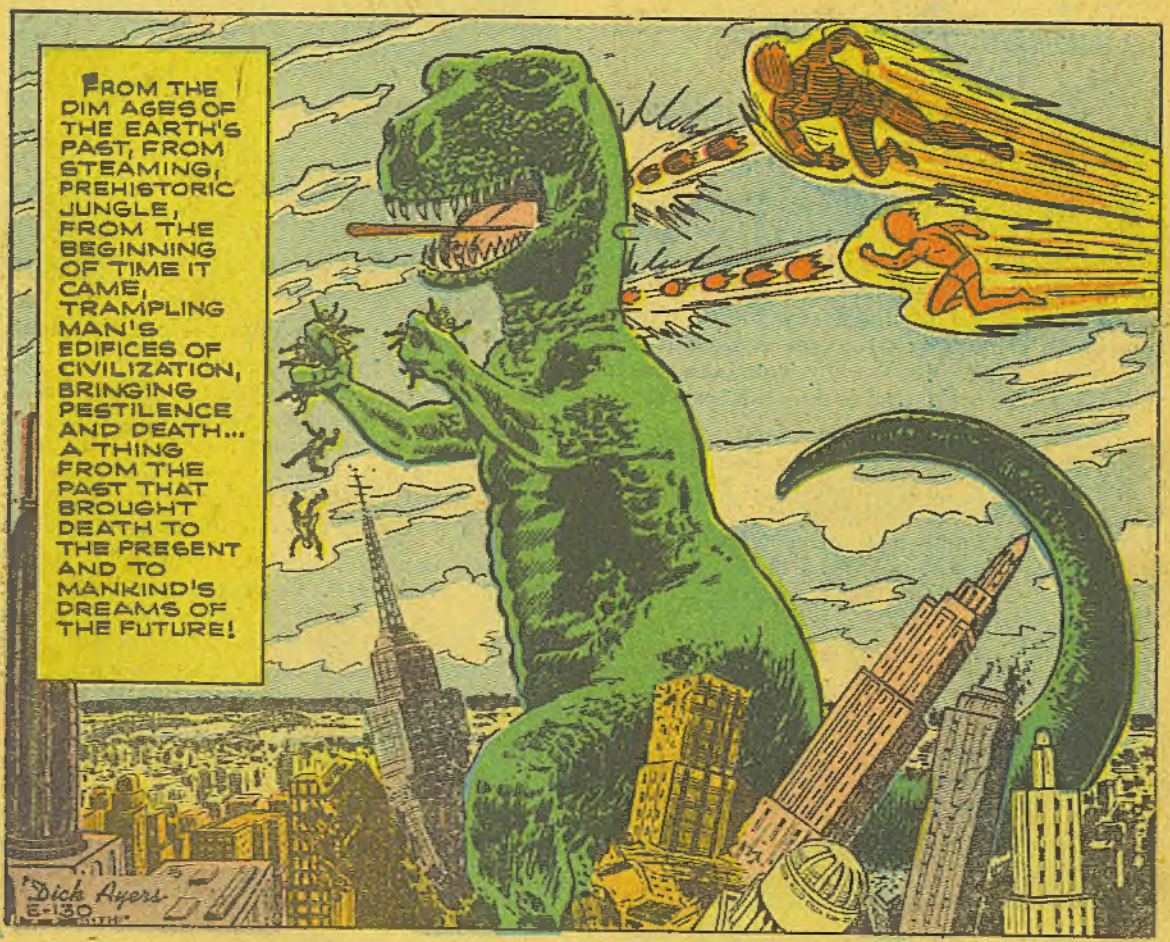


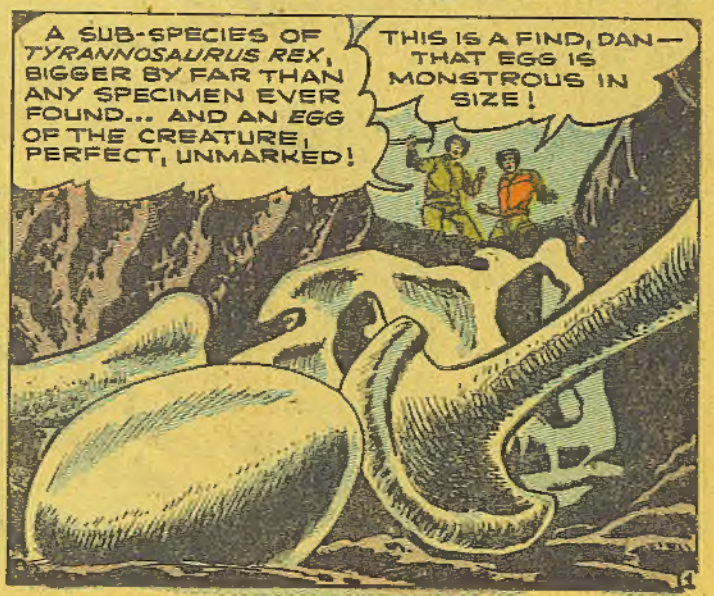


THAT ENDS IT! THE PLANS BURN WITH HIM, BUT FROM THE MODEL THEY MADE, OUR WEAPONS EXPERTS WILL BE ABLE TO WORK! HE AND HIS FELLOW REDS WANT TO BRING FIRE AND SWORD AND SLAVERY TO ALL THE WORLD! WELL, HE GOT AS FAR AS THE FIRE!
AAAAGHHH!
THE END

THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO BLAZE THROUGH MORE DANGEROUS ADVENTURES IN YOUNG MEN! DON'T MISS IT!

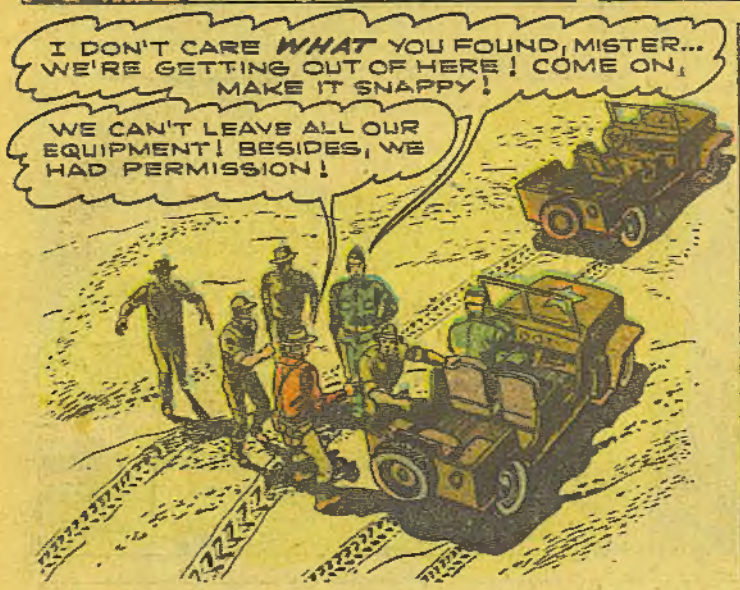
THE HUMAN TORCH

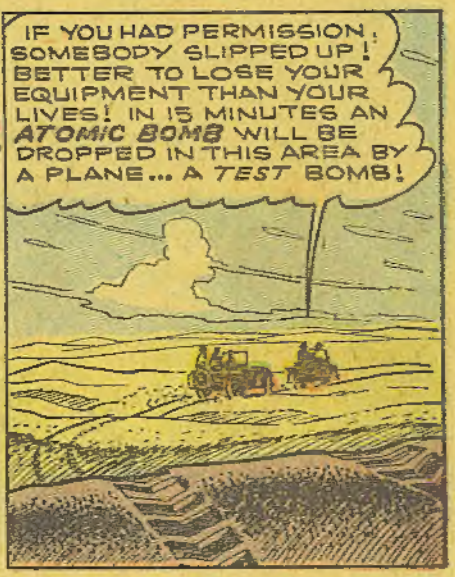

FROM THE DIM AGES OF THE EARTH'S PAST, FROM STEAMING, PREHISTORIC JUNGLE, FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME IT CAME, TRAMPLING MAN'S EDIFICES OF CIVILIZATION, BRINGING PESTILENCE AND DEATH... A THING FROM THE PAST THAT BROUGHT DEATH TO THE PRESENT AND TO MANKIND'S DREAMS OF THE FUTURE!
Dick Ayers
E-130

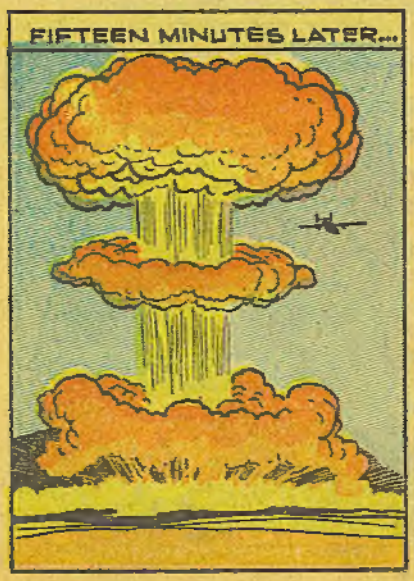

A SUB-SPECIES OF *TYRANNOSAURUS REX*, BIGGER BY FAR THAN ANY SPECIMEN EVER FOUND... AND AN *EGG* OF THE CREATURE, PERFECT, UNMARKED!
THIS IS A FIND, DAN— THAT EGG IS MONSTROUS IN SIZE!

YOU DOWN THERE... GET UP HERE, AND FAST!
WHAT? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

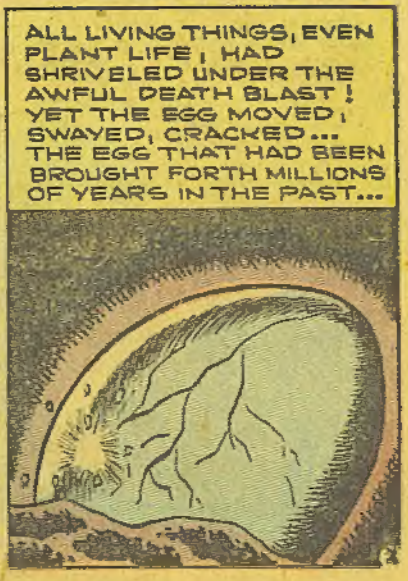
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, MISTER, AND IN A HURRY! WE'VE GOT JEEPS WAITIN'! LUCKY WE SCANNED THIS AREA FOR A LAST GOING-OVER!
WE CAN'T LEAVE NOW! WHY, WE'VE FOUND...


I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU FOUND, MISTER... WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE! COME ON, MAKE IT SNAPPY!
WE CAN'T LEAVE ALL OUR EQUIPMENT! BESIDES, WE HAD PERMISSION!


IF YOU HAD PERMISSION, SOMEBODY SLIPPED UP! BETTER TO LOSE YOUR EQUIPMENT THAN YOUR LIVES! IN 15 MINUTES AN ATOMIC BOMB WILL BE DROPPED IN THIS AREA BY A PLANE... A TEST BOMB!


FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

A GREAT CRATER SMOKED UPON THE DESERT FLOOR, FILLED WITH DEADLY RAYS AND NUCLEAR RADIATION... A PIT OF DEATH! AND IN THIS PIT LAY... THE EGG!

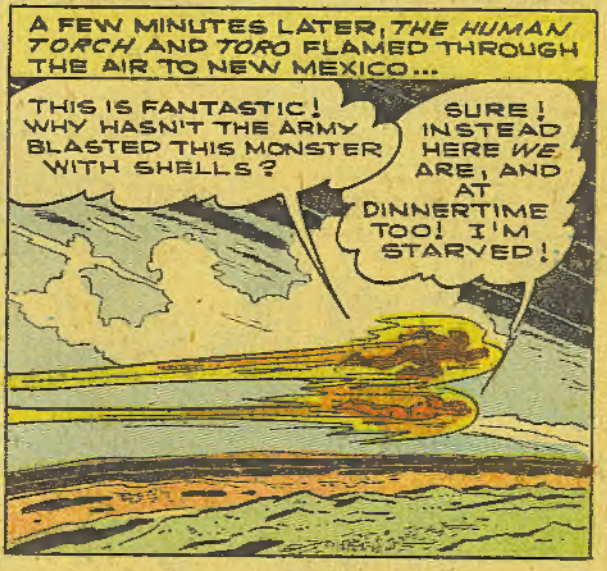

ALL LIVING THINGS, EVEN PLANT LIFE, HAD SHRIVELED UNDER THE AWFUL DEATH BLAST! YET THE EGG MOVED, SWAYED, CRACKED... THE EGG THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT FORTH MILLIONS OF YEARS IN THE PAST...

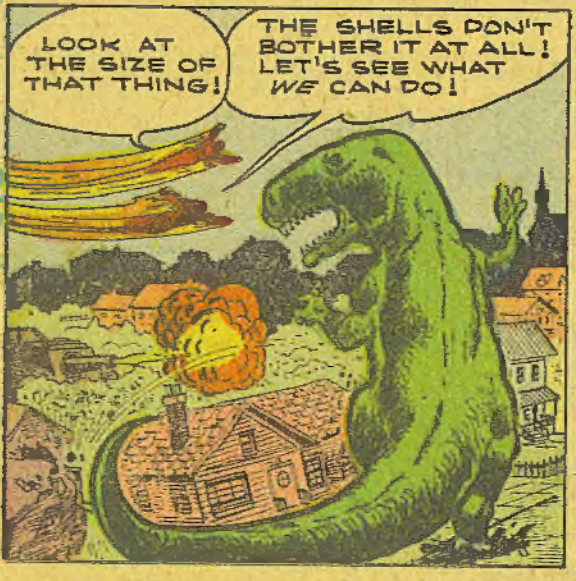
AND A "THING" CRAWLED OUT, A MONSTER THAT HAD LAIN EMBRYONICALLY DORMANT THROUGH THE AGES, RELEASED AND GIVEN LIFE BY THE END RESULT OF ALL MAN'S KNOWLEDGE!

PERHAPS THE EARTH IN THAT DIM PAST OF BEGINNINGS HAD SWIRLED WITH RADIATION FOG... PERHAPS WITH THE COMING OF EARTH'S STABILIZATION, THIS ATOMIC DUST HAD SETTLED AND THE RACE OF MIGHTY MONSTERS IT NOURISHED HAD THEN DIED OUT!

ONLY THIS THEORY COULD EXPLAIN THIS BIRTH AND THE TREMENDOUSLY RAPID GROWTH OF THE MONSTER... UNTIL IT STEPPED OUT FROM ITS ATOMIC CAVE AND ONCE MORE WALKED THE EARTH...

THEN, IN CHIEF WILSON'S OFFICE...
TORCH... TORO! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! LOOK AT THESE REPORTS! A PREHISTORIC MONSTER IS STALKING ACROSS NEW MEXICO, SMASHING EVERYTHING IN ITS WAKE!


A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO FLAMED THROUGH THE AIR TO NEW MEXICO...
THIS IS FANTASTIC! WHY HASN'T THE ARMY BLASTED THIS MONSTER WITH SHELLS?
SURE! INSTEAD HERE WE ARE, AND AT DINNERTIME TOO! I'M STARVED!



THE FIREBALLS AREN'T DOING ANY GOOD... BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE FIRE! NO BEAST DOES!
WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO, TORCH? NOTHING SEEMS TO STOP IT!
3

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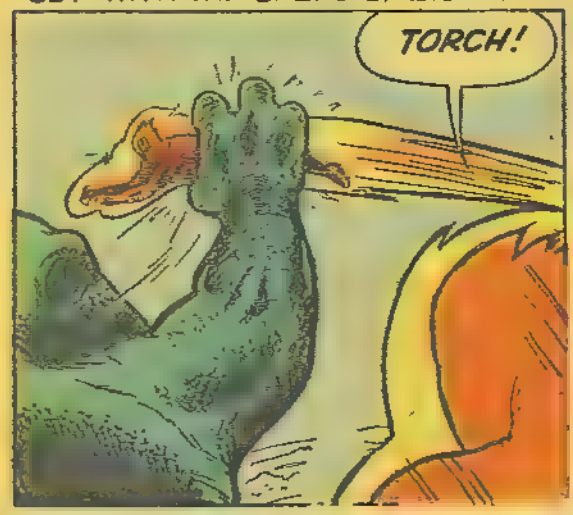
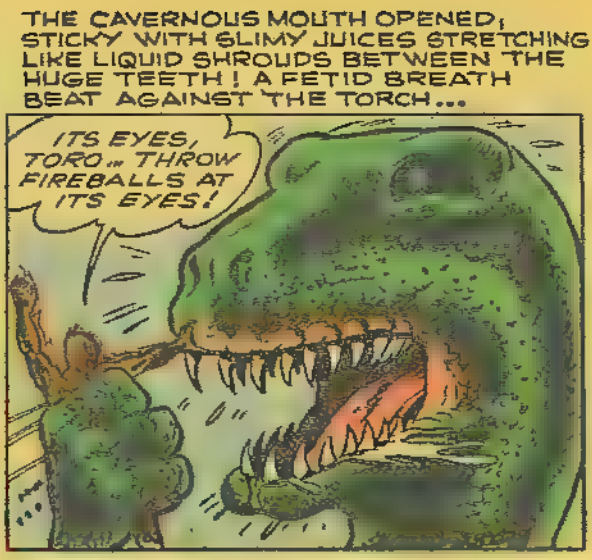
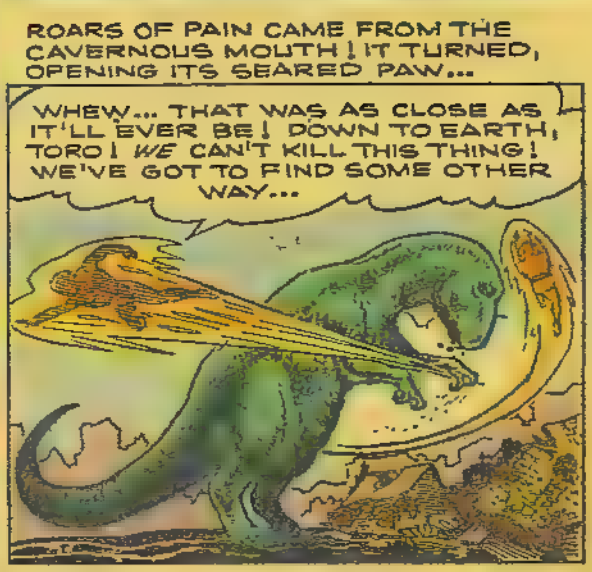
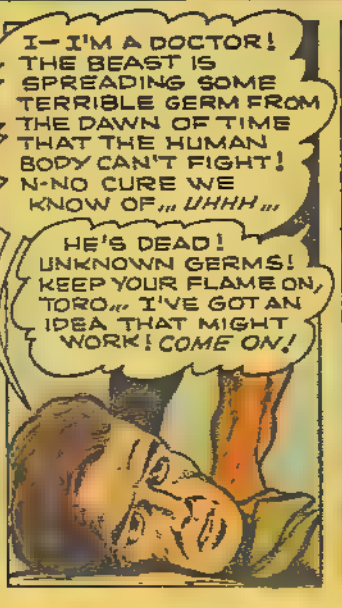
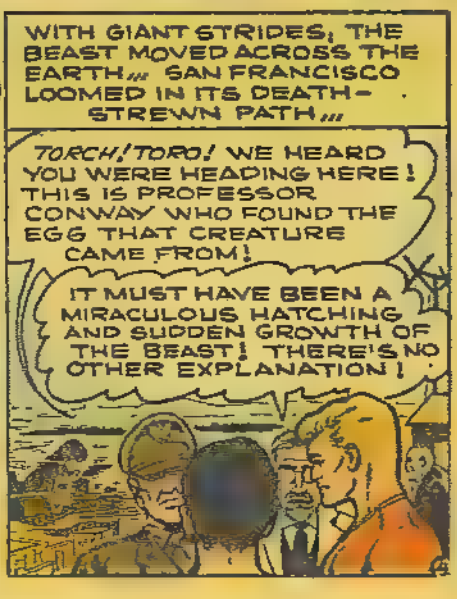

SUDDENLY A SCALY PAW LASHED OUT WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT...
TORCH!


THE CAVERNOUS MOUTH OPENED, STICKY WITH SLIMY JUICES STRETCHING LIKE LIQUID SHROUDS BETWEEN THE HUGE TEETH! A FETID BREATH BEAT AGAINST THE TORCH...
ITS EYES, TORO... THROW FIREBALLS AT ITS EYES!


ROARS OF PAIN CAME FROM THE CAVERNOUS MOUTH! IT TURNED, OPENING ITS SEARED PAW...
WHEW... THAT WAS AS CLOSE AS IT'LL EVER BE! DOWN TO EARTH, TORO! WE CAN'T KILL THIS THING! WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY...

SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CRUSHED, BUT OTHERS HAVEN'T! WHAT KILLED THEM?
THIS MAN IS STILL ALIVE!

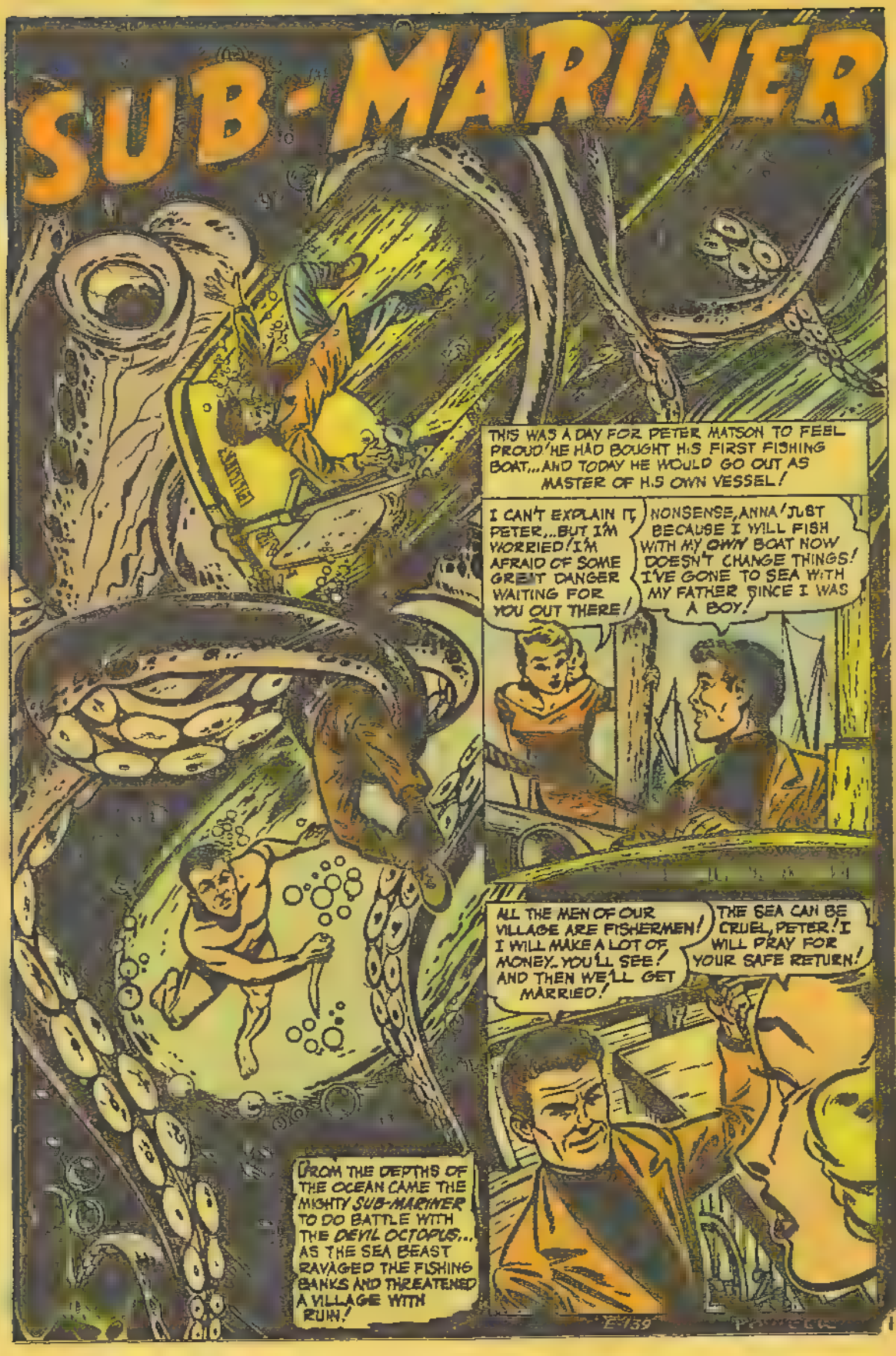

I—I'M A DOCTOR! THE BEAST IS SPREADING SOME TERRIBLE GERM FROM THE DAWN OF TIME THAT THE HUMAN BODY CAN'T FIGHT! N-NO CURE WE KNOW OF... UHHH...
HE'S DEAD! UNKNOWN GERMS! KEEP YOUR FLAME ON, TORO... I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT MIGHT WORK! COME ON!


WITH GIANT STRIDES, THE BEAST MOVED ACROSS THE EARTH... SAN FRANCISCO LOOMED IN ITS DEATH-STREWN PATH...
TORCH! TORO! WE HEARD YOU WERE HEADING HERE! THIS IS PROFESSOR CONWAY WHO FOUND THE EGG THAT CREATURE CAME FROM!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MIRACULOUS HATCHING AND SUDDEN GROWTH OF THE BEAST! THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION!

WE'RE STOPPED COLD, TORCH! ALL WE'VE GOT LEFT IS TO DROP AN ATOMIC BOMB ON IT!
I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD STOP IT! IT WOULD ABSORB THE ATOMIC ENERGY AND RADIATIONS AND GROW BIGGER! I THINK IT WAS NUCLEAR ACTION THAT CAUSED IT TO HATCH AND GROW IN THE FIRST PLACE!
THE GERMS ARE KILLING PEOPLE BY THE THOUSANDS... THOSE THE BEAST ITSELF DOESN'T KILL! IN A FEW DAYS, CIVILIZATION ON THIS CONTINENT WILL BE EXTINCT, AT THIS RATE!
I HAVE AN IDEA THAT MIGHT WORK! THIS BEAST IS A LAND CREATURE! IF WE CAN GET IT INTO A LARGE BODY OF WATER, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DROWN IT!
GOSH, I'M HUNGRY... MISSED LUNCH AND DINNER! COULDN'T WE...?
NO TIME TO EAT NOW! GENERAL, FIRE THAT END OF THE CITY WHERE THE BEAST IS... IT'S CONTAMINATED BY THE GERMS ANYHOW! WE'LL TRY TO HERD IT TO THE BAY! MEANWHILE, WIRE AHEAD TO HAVE A SUBMARINE READY!
THE BEAST CROUCHED BACK FROM THE FLAMES THAT SOON SURROUNDED IT! THEN THE TORCH AND TORO WENT TO WORK...
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF ITS PAWS! HERD IT TOWARD THE HARBOR!
ONLY ONE WAY WAS CLEAR OF FLAMES, THE WAY TOWARD THE HARBOR! SHAKING ITS MONSTER HEAD IN ANNOYANCE, THE BEAST TROD TOWARD THE WATER!
KEEP THROWING FIREBALLS... DRIVE IT DEEPER INTO THE WATER! I'M GOING DOWN TO THE SUBMARINE!
SUBMERGE AS SOON AS YOU CAN! MOVE TOWARD THE BEAST'S LEGS... WE'LL TRY TO BRING HIM DOWN WITH TORPEDOES!
THERE HE IS! HE'S FAIRLY DEEP IN THE WATER! FIRE THOSE TORPEDOES!

THE HATCH IS JAMMED!
WE CAN'T LAST MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES! WE'RE TRAPPED!
PUT ON YOUR OXYGEN MASKS! I'LL BURN OPEN A NEW HATCHWAY AND YOU CAN FLOAT TO THE SURFACE!
THE TORPEDOES DID SOME DAMAGE! NOW IF I CAN BURN THE MUSCLES ENOUGH SO THAT HIS LEGS CAN'T SUPPORT HIM...
THAT DID IT! HE'S GOING DOWN, AND WITH THAT GREAT BULK HE'LL NEVER GET UP AGAIN! HE'LL DROWN!
IT WAS SOON FOUND THAT HEAT DESTROYED THE TERRIBLE GERMS FROM THE PAST! ARTIFICIALLY ENGENDERED FEVER SAVED THOSE STRICKEN WITH THE BEAST'S PLAGUE! THE TORCH AND TORO SEARED THE HUGE BODY IN THE BAY TO KILL ALL REMAINING GERMS... THEN THEY HEADED HOME...
...AND TO THINK THAT BEAST CAME FROM AN EGG!
FOOD! OH, BOY, I'M STARVED! WHAT'S FOR DINNER, BETTY?
DAILY
FRIED EGGS!
EGGS! OH, NO!
THE END

FOLLOW THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO IN CAPTAIN AMERICA COMIC MAGAZINE! AT YOUR NEWSSTAND NOW!


SUB-MARINER
THIS WAS A DAY FOR PETER MATSON TO FEEL PROUD! HE HAD BOUGHT HIS FIRST FISHING BOAT,...AND TODAY HE WOULD GO OUT AS MASTER OF HIS OWN VESSEL!
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, PETER,...BUT I'M WORRIED! I'M AFRAID OF SOME GREAT DANGER WAITING FOR YOU OUT THERE!
NONSENSE, ANNA! JUST BECAUSE I WILL FISH WITH MY OWN BOAT NOW DOESN'T CHANGE THINGS! I'VE GONE TO SEA WITH MY FATHER SINCE I WAS A BOY!
ALL THE MEN OF OUR VILLAGE ARE FISHERMEN! I WILL MAKE A LOT OF MONEY..YOU'LL SEE! AND THEN WE'LL GET MARRIED!
THE SEA CAN BE CRUEL, PETER! I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN!
FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN CAME THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER TO DO BATTLE WITH THE DEVIL OCTOPUS... AS THE SEA BEAST RAVAGED THE FISHING BANKS AND THREATENED A VILLAGE WITH RUIN!
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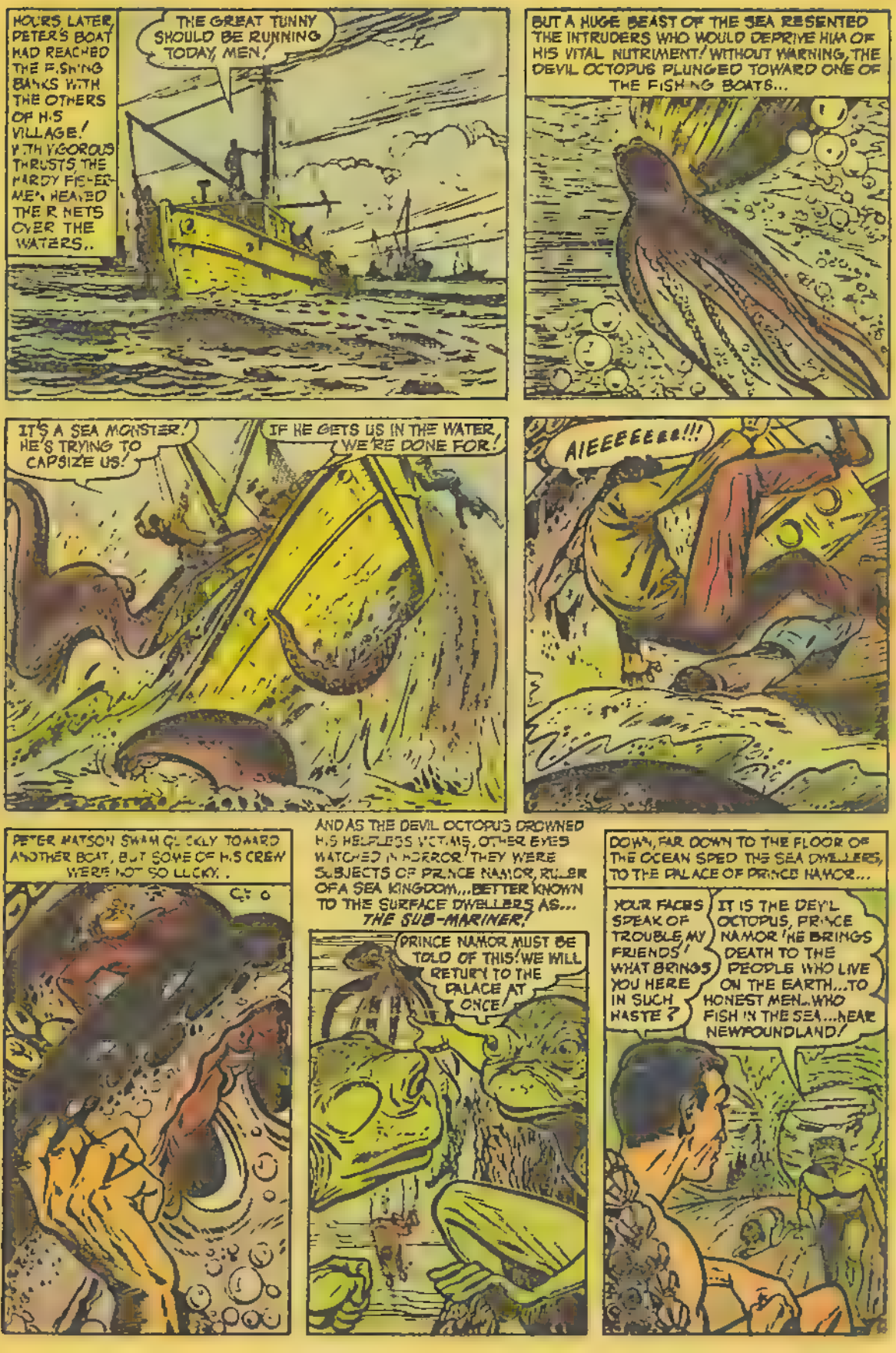

HOURS LATER, PETER'S BOAT HAD REACHED THE FISHING BANKS WITH THE OTHERS OF HIS VILLAGE! WITH VIGOROUS THRUSTS, THE HARDY FISHERMEN HEAVED THEIR NETS OVER THE WATERS..
THE GREAT TUNNY SHOULD BE RUNNING TODAY, MEN!
BUT A HUGE BEAST OF THE SEA RESENTED THE INTRUDERS WHO WOULD DEPRIVE HIM OF HIS VITAL NUTRIMENT! WITHOUT WARNING, THE DEVIL OCTOPUS PLUNGED TOWARD ONE OF THE FISHING BOATS...
IT'S A SEA MONSTER! HE'S TRYING TO CAPSIZE US!
IF HE GETS US IN THE WATER, WE'RE DONE FOR!
AIEEEEEEE!!!
PETER MATSON SWAM QUICKLY TOWARD ANOTHER BOAT, BUT SOME OF HIS CREW WERE NOT SO LUCKY..
AND AS THE DEVIL OCTOPUS DROWNED HIS HELPLESS VICTIMS, OTHER EYES WATCHED IN HORROR! THEY WERE SUBJECTS OF PRINCE NAMOR, RULER OF A SEA KINGDOM...BETTER KNOWN TO THE SURFACE DWELLERS AS... THE SUB-MARINER!
PRINCE NAMOR MUST BE TOLD OF THIS! WE WILL RETURN TO THE PALACE AT ONCE!
DOWN, FAR DOWN TO THE FLOOR OF THE OCEAN SPED THE SEA DWELLERS, TO THE PALACE OF PRINCE NAMOR...
YOUR FACES SPEAK OF TROUBLE, MY FRIENDS! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE IN SUCH HASTE?
IT IS THE DEVIL OCTOPUS, PRINCE NAMOR! HE BRINGS DEATH TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THE EARTH...TO HONEST MEN...WHO FISH IN THE SEA...NEAR NEWFOUNDLAND!

TROUBLED BY THE HAVOC CAUSED BY A CREATURE OF HIS SEA WORLD, THE MIGHTY *SUB-MARINER* LEFT HIS PALACE AND SPED TOWARD THE STRICKEN VILLAGE OF THE FOLK WHO LIVED FROM THE SEA!

MEANWHILE, PETER MATSON AND THE OTHER MEN HAD RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGE WITH THE TRAGIC NEWS...

FIVE MEN WERE LOST WHEN THE MONSTER CAPSIZED MY BOAT. IF THE BEAST STAYS ON THE FISHING BANKS, WE DARE NOT GO OUT THERE AGAIN!

BUT IT'S OUR LIVING! WE WOULD HAVE TO GO AWAY... LEAVE OUR VILLAGE FOREVER!

IT SEEMS YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ABANDON YOUR VILLAGE! BUT I'M WILLING TO PAY WELL FOR YOUR HOUSES AND YOUR LAND!

YOU'RE A STRANGER HERE! WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS SAM HOOKER! I'VE HAD MY EYE ON THIS AREA FOR A LONG TIME... I'D LIKE TO BUILD SOME FACTORIES HERE!

YOU *CAN'T* FISH ANY MORE! BETTER SELL OUT YOUR PROPERTY TO ME AND MOVE DOWN THE COAST!

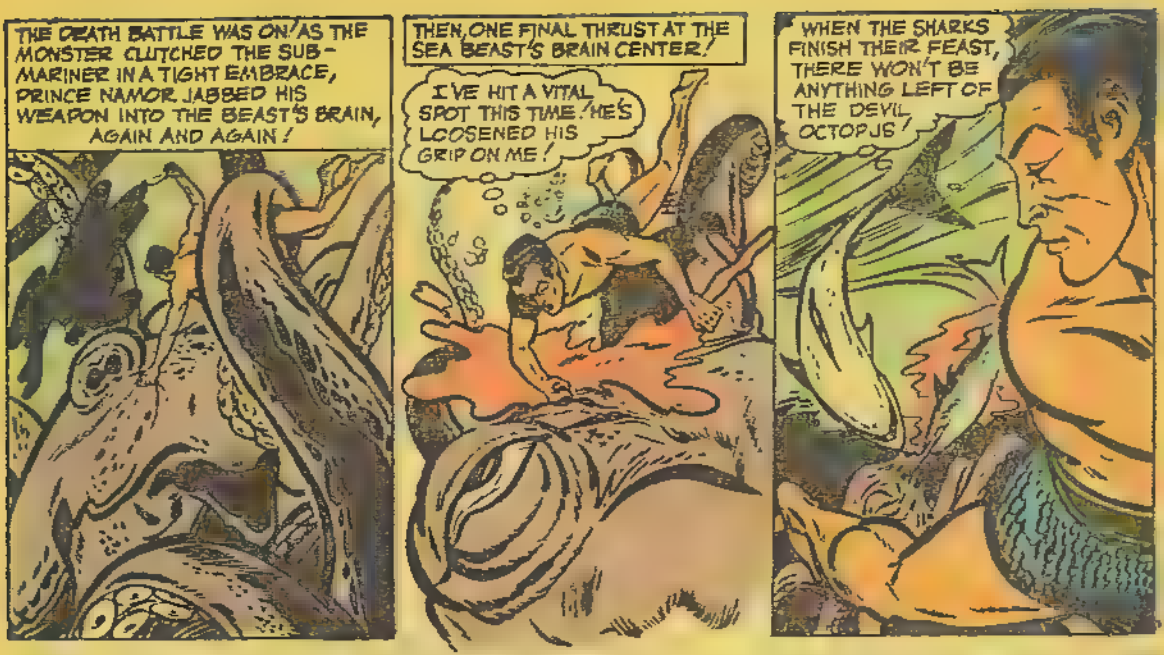
MOST OF US WERE BORN HERE, MR. HOOKER... WE'VE ALWAYS FISHED ON THE SAME BANKS! AND NO SEA BEAST IS GOING TO DRIVE US FROM OUR HOMES!

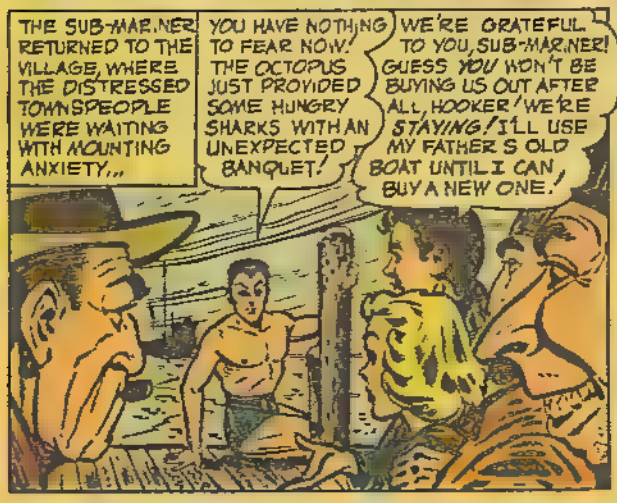
WHY, Y-YOU'RE THE *SUB-MARINER*! I'VE HEARD OF YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING *HERE*?

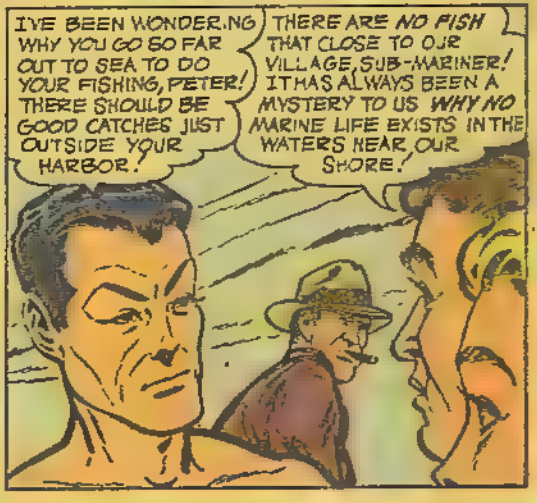
I'VE HEARD WHAT THE MONSTER FROM MY WORLD HAS DONE! I WILL HELP YOU! I'LL GO TO THE FISHING BANKS AND *DESTROY* THE *DEVIL OCTOPUS*! THEN YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

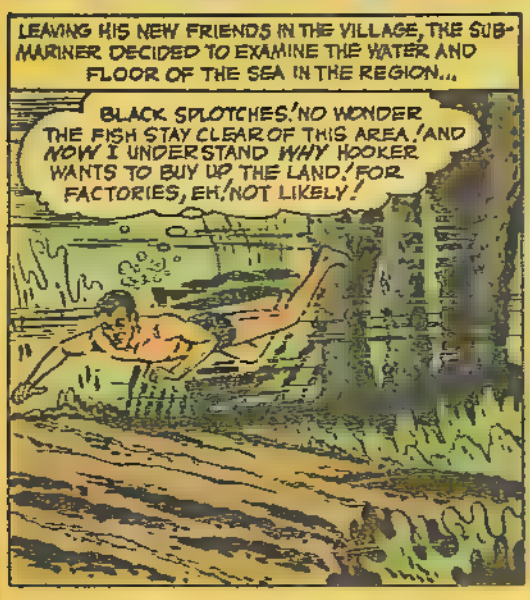
BORROWING A RAZOR-SHARP KNIFE, THE SEA PRINCE RACED THROUGH THE SEA UNTIL HE FOUND THE LURKING BEAST...

THE DEVIL HAS KILLED MANY CREATURES OF THE SEA... AND NOW HE HAS SLAUGHTERED INNOCENT PEOPLE! HE *MUST* BE DESTROYED!


THE DEATH BATTLE WAS ON! AS THE MONSTER CLUTCHED THE SUB-MARINER IN A TIGHT EMBRACE, PRINCE NAMOR JABBED HIS WEAPON INTO THE BEAST'S BRAIN, AGAIN AND AGAIN!
THEN, ONE FINAL THRUST AT THE SEA BEAST'S BRAIN CENTER!
I'VE HIT A VITAL SPOT THIS TIME! HE'S LOOSENED HIS GRIP ON ME!
WHEN THE SHARKS FINISH THEIR FEAST, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT OF THE DEVIL OCTOPUS!


THE SUB-MARINER RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE, WHERE THE DISTRESSED TOWNSPEOPLE WERE WAITING WITH MOUNTING ANXIETY...
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR NOW! THE OCTOPUS JUST PROVIDED SOME HUNGRY SHARKS WITH AN UNEXPECTED BANQUET!
WE'RE GRATEFUL TO YOU, SUB-MARINER! GUESS YOU WON'T BE BUYING US OUT AFTER ALL, HOOKER! WE'RE STAYING! I'LL USE MY FATHER'S OLD BOAT UNTIL I CAN BUY A NEW ONE!


I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU GO SO FAR OUT TO SEA TO DO YOUR FISHING, PETER! THERE SHOULD BE GOOD CATCHES JUST OUTSIDE YOUR HARBOR!
THERE ARE NO FISH THAT CLOSE TO OUR VILLAGE, SUB-MARINER! IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MYSTERY TO US WHY NO MARINE LIFE EXISTS IN THE WATERS NEAR OUR SHORE!


LEAVING HIS NEW FRIENDS IN THE VILLAGE, THE SUB-MARINER DECIDED TO EXAMINE THE WATER AND FLOOR OF THE SEA IN THE REGION...
BLACK SPLOTCHES! NO WONDER THE FISH STAY CLEAR OF THIS AREA! AND NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY HOOKER WANTS TO BUY UP THE LAND! FOR FACTORIES, EH! NOT LIKELY!

THE NEXT MORNING, THE SUB-MARINER SWAM TO THE FISHING BANKS TO TELL PETER AND THE OTHERS WHAT HE HAD DISCOVERED! HE FOUND THE FISHING BOATS UNDER ATTACK FROM A HEAVILY ARMED YACHT!
THOSE POOR FISHERMEN WON'T HAVE A CHANCE, UNLESS I ACT FAST!

IT'S THE SUB-MARINER! CUT HIM DOWN!
HOOKER! I MIGHT HAVE GUESSED IT!
THE WATER FROM WHICH THE SUB-MARINER HAD JUST EMERGED GAVE HIM THE SPEED AND POWER OF A DOZEN MEN! HE RIPPED INTO THE ARMED THUG BEFORE THE GUNMAN COULD TAKE EFFECTIVE AIM!
BLAST HIM!
AHHHHHH!!
I'LL CUT YOU TO RIBBONS MYSELF! OWWWW!
YOU'RE GETTING OFF EASY, HOOKER! I OUGHT TO FEED YOU TO THE SHARKS!
WHEN PETER AND THE OTHER RELIEVED FISHERMEN CAME ABOARD..
SO IT WAS, HOOKER. THE GUY WHO WANTED TO BUY OUR LAND IF WE MOVED OUT!
RIGHT, PETER..AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY! HE DISCOVERED YOUR LAND IS RICH WITH OIL! THAT'S WHY THE FISH STAYED AWAY FROM YOUR SHORE... THE OIL WAS SEEPING INTO THE WATER AND THE FISH CAN'T LIVE IN IT!
THE DEVIL OCTOPUS ALMOST DROVE YOU OUT, AND HOOKER SAW HIS CHANCE! BUT I SPOILED IT FOR HIM WHEN I KILLED THE BEAST! SO HE TRIED MORE DRASTIC MEASURES!
OIL! WE DON'T WANT IT! IF WE SELL OUR LAND TO THE OIL MEN, WE'LL LOSE OUR VILLAGE ANYWAY! WE ARE FISHERMEN AND WE MUST FOLLOW THE SEA! IT IS THE ONLY LIFE WE LOVE!
YOU ARE RIGHT, PETER.. WE ALL FEEL THE SAME WAY!
AFTER THE COAST GUARD AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN RADIOED AND ARRIVED TO TAKE THE CRIMINALS INTO CUSTODY...
GOOD-BYE, PETER! YOU CAN FISH THE NEWFOUNDLAND BANKS IN PEACE NOW!
THE END

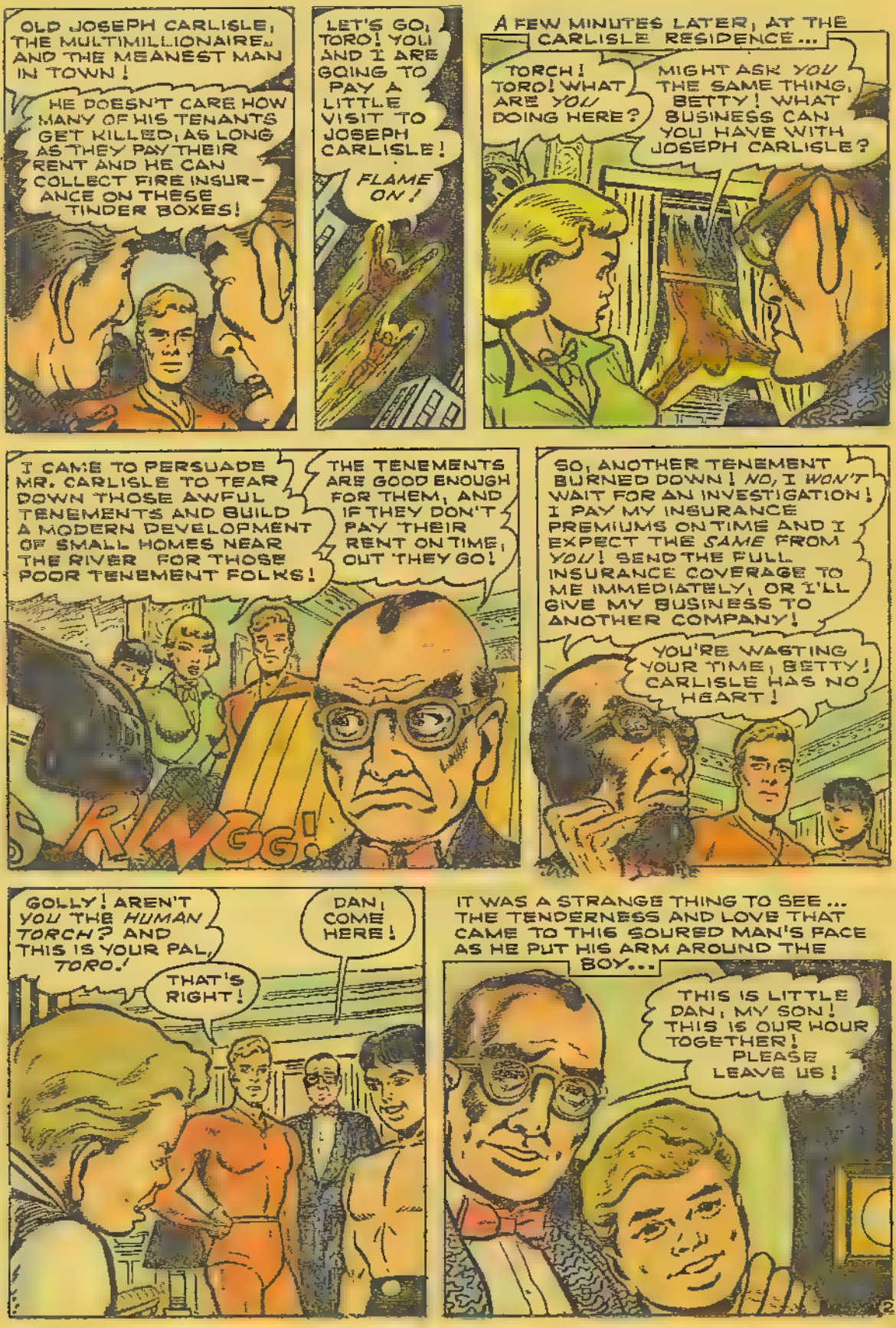
THE *SUB-MARINER* NOW APPEARS IN HIS *OWN* MAGAZINE! LOOK FOR *SUB-MARINER COMICS* AT YOUR NEWSSTAND *TODAY!*

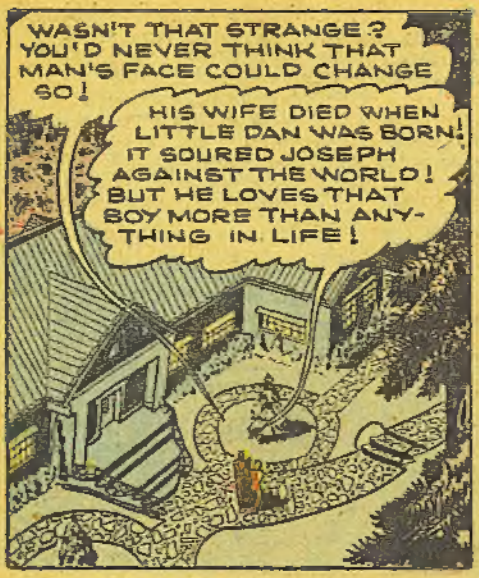
THE HUMAN TORCH

THE APE WAS THE MOST VICIOUS CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD! HE WAS WELL NAMED... A THROWBACK TO MAN'S DIM PAST, HE POSSESSED NO MORE CONSCIENCE THAN AN ANIMAL, AND LIKE MANY ANIMALS HE WAS CUNNING AND LOVED THE SMELL OF BLOOD! THEN THERE WAS JOSEPH CARLISLE... CULTURED, WELL EDUCATED, AND AS CONSCIENCELESS AS *THE APE*! TWO MEN SO DIFFERENT, YET ALIKE... A CRIPPLED CHILD... THE TORCH AND TORO... THESE ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF FLAMING DANGER!

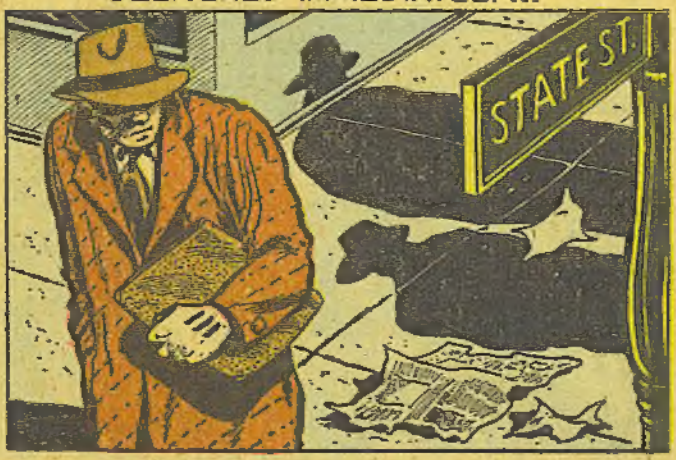
ONE STEP CLOSER, TORCH, AN DA KID GETS IT! I KNOW BULLETS CAN'T HURT YOU, BUT ONE SLUG FROM DIS GAT'LL SPILL DIS LITTLE PUNK'S BRAINS ALL OVER DA FLOOR!
HOLD IT, TORO! THE APE *WOULD* KILL LITTLE DAN! HE'S GOT US LICKED!

THESE TENEMENTS ARE FIRE-TRAPS!
IT'S A DISGRACE TO THE CITY! THESE RAT HOLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN LONG AGO! WHO OWNS THESE TENEMENTS?


OLD JOSEPH CARLISLE, THE MULTIMILLIONAIRE, AND THE MEANEST MAN IN TOWN!
HE DOESN'T CARE HOW MANY OF HIS TENANTS GET KILLED, AS LONG AS THEY PAY THEIR RENT AND HE CAN COLLECT FIRE INSURANCE ON THESE TINDER BOXES!
LET'S GO, TORO! YOU AND I ARE GOING TO PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO JOSEPH CARLISLE!
FLAME ON!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE CARLISLE RESIDENCE...
TORCH! TORO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MIGHT ASK YOU THE SAME THING, BETTY! WHAT BUSINESS CAN YOU HAVE WITH JOSEPH CARLISLE?
I CAME TO PERSUADE MR. CARLISLE TO TEAR DOWN THOSE AWFUL TENEMENTS AND BUILD A MODERN DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL HOMES NEAR THE RIVER FOR THOSE POOR TENEMENT FOLKS!
THE TENEMENTS ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM, AND IF THEY DON'T PAY THEIR RENT ON TIME, OUT THEY GO!
RWGG!
SO, ANOTHER TENEMENT BURNED DOWN! NO, I WON'T WAIT FOR AN INVESTIGATION! I PAY MY INSURANCE PREMIUMS ON TIME AND I EXPECT THE SAME FROM YOU! SEND THE FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ME IMMEDIATELY, OR I'LL GIVE MY BUSINESS TO ANOTHER COMPANY!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, BETTY! CARLISLE HAS NO HEART!
GOLLY! AREN'T YOU THE HUMAN TORCH? AND THIS IS YOUR PAL, TORO!
THAT'S RIGHT!
DAN, COME HERE!
IT WAS A STRANGE THING TO SEE... THE TENDERNESS AND LOVE THAT CAME TO THIS SOURED MAN'S FACE AS HE PUT HIS ARM AROUND THE BOY...
THIS IS LITTLE DAN, MY SON! THIS IS OUR HOUR TOGETHER! PLEASE LEAVE US!


WASN'T THAT STRANGE? YOU'D NEVER THINK THAT MAN'S FACE COULD CHANGE SO!
HIS WIFE DIED WHEN LITTLE DAN WAS BORN! IT SOURED JOSEPH AGAINST THE WORLD! BUT HE LOVES THAT BOY MORE THAN ANYTHING IN LIFE!

A MAN HURRIED THROUGH THE STREETS IN THE DARK! HE CARRIED A BAG IN WHICH WAS THE INSURANCE MONEY JOSEPH CARLISLE HAD INSISTED UPON BEING DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY...



THIRTY MINUTES LATER, THE GANG OF THUGS ENTERED THEIR HIDEOUT...

NICE HAUL! THIS IS ONE TIME OL' CARLISLE WON'T GET HIS INSURANCE DOUGH!
YOU KIDDIN'? THAT OL' SKINFLINT'LL MAKE THE INSURANCE COMPANY PAY IT AGAIN! HE WON'T LOSE NOTHIN'!

HE CAME OUT OF THE NIGHT! NO ONE EVER KNEW WHERE HE CAME FROM... IT WAS AS THOUGH HE WERE BORN OF THE NIGHT...
I'LL TAKE THAT DOUGH!
WHAT THE...? LISTEN, YUH BIG APE...

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM... SOMETHING PRIMAL, THAT BROUGHT FEAR AND AWE EVEN TO THESE HARDENED AND VICIOUS CRIMINALS!
ANY OBJECTORS TO ME TAKIN' OVER? SAY SO NOW AND I'LL GIVE YUH REASONS BEFORE I BREAK YOUR BACK! NO? O.K., NOW TELL ME ABOUT THIS MONEY!
THEY TOLD HIM ABOUT THE MONEY... ABOUT JOSEPH CARLISLE AND LITTLE DAN...
SO THIS OLD MISER'S WORTH MILLIONS AND YOU GUYS SNATCH A FEW THOUSAND! YOU'RE PIKERS! I'LL SHOW YUH HOW TO CLIP THIS CARLISLE FOR A FORTUNE! NOW LISTEN... WE SNATCH THIS KID OF HIS, SEE...
THE NEXT DAY...
TORCH, YOU'VE GOT TO FIND MY BOY! THE CROOK WHO SENT THAT NOTE FOR A MILLION DOLLARS RANSOM FOUND MY WEAK SPOT! I'LL GLADLY PAY THE MONEY, BUT I'M AFRAID THEY'LL KILL LITTLE DAN ANYWAY!
...SIGNED "THE APE"! WELL, MR. CARLISLE, WE'LL DO OUR BEST!
THIS IS PROBABLY CONNECTED WITH THE INSURANCE ROBBERY... FROM THE DESCRIPTION THE MESSENGER GAVE OF ONE OF THE MEN, IT SOUNDS LIKE THE GORKI GANG!
BUT THEY'RE NOT THE TYPE OF CRIMINAL THAT WOULD DO A KIDNAPING!
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SEE CHIEF WILSON... LOOK OVER THE CRIMINAL FILES... SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING RELATING TO THE APE! I'M GOING TO FIND GORKI'S HANGOUT DOWN BY THE BAY! FLAME ON!
O.K., TORCH!
A REPORTER, COVERING THE KIDNAP STORY, SAW THE TORCH AND TORO LEAVE THE CARLISLE HOME! AN HOUR LATER EXTRAS WERE ON THE STREET...
READ ALL ABOUT THE MILLION DOLLAR KIDNAPING!
5¢ DAILY FLAG
HUMAN TORCH & TORO SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY
AND IN THE HIDEOUT OF THE GORKI GANG...
I TELL YOU THE TORCH AND TORO'LL FIND US! TURN THE KID LOOSE... LET'S GET OUT OF THIS!
SHUT UP! I FIGGERED THE TORCH AN' TORO'D COME AFTER US, AN' I GOT A PLAN FOR THEM TOO! WE GO DOWN TO THE CELLAR WHERE THAT DRY WELL IS... THEN LET THE TORCH COME!

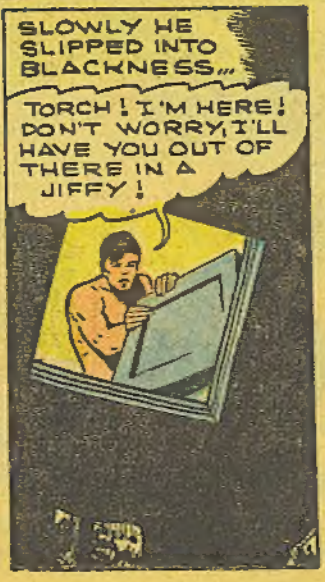
THE APE DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT ...

HALF UNCONSCIOUS FROM THE STUNNING BLOW, THE TORCH PITCHED DOWN INTO THE BLACKNESS OF THE WELL, AS THE APE, WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, PICKED UP THE HEAVY STONE WELL COVER ...

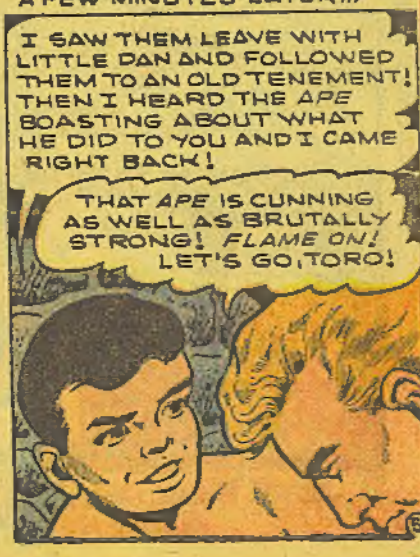
THE TORCH IS OUT COLD, AND BY THE TIME HE COMES TO, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OXYGEN LEFT IN THERE TO KEEP HIS FLAME BURNING HOT ENOUGH TO BLAZE OUT, AND HE'LL SUFFOCATE! C'MON, LET'S GO... I'VE GOT A BETTER HIDEOUT!

MINUTES PASSED! THEN, IN HIS STONE COFFIN THE TORCH AWOKE...
WHAT...? GOT TO BURN MY WAY OUT OF HERE ...THE AIR IS GETTING FOUL ALREADY! FLAME ON!

BUT HIS FLAME WAS FEEBLE AND GREW WEAKER EVERY SECOND!
CAN'T... CAN'T MELT THE ROCK... FLAME TOO WEAK! EVERYTHING'S GETTING BLACK! CAN'T... CAN'T BREATHE...



A FEW MINUTES LATER...


I SAW THEM LEAVE WITH LITTLE DAN AND FOLLOWED THEM TO AN OLD TENEMENT! THEN I HEARD THE APE BOASTING ABOUT WHAT HE DID TO YOU AND I CAME RIGHT BACK!
THAT APE IS CUNNING AS WELL AS BRUTALLY STRONG! FLAME ON! LET'S GO, TORO!

LIKE FLAMING BRANDS OF VENGEANCE, THEY BLAZED THROUGH THE SKY TO THE TENEMENT...
THE TORCH AN' TORO!
IN THEIR BURNING FURY, THE THUGS WERE NO MATCH FOR THE TWO CRIME FIGHTERS...
SHOW THEM NO MERCY, TORO!
BULLETS DON'T TOUCH THEM!
MY GUN'S MELTING!
I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE! AN' IF YUH COME ONE STEP CLOSER, THE KID GETS IT! I AIN'T BLUFFIN'!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT, APE! I GUESS YOU'VE GOT US LICKED!
THE APE OPENED THE DOOR, TURNED... BUT THE HEAT OF THE TORCH AND TORO HAD MADE A MASS OF FLAMES OF THE FIRE-TRAP TENEMENT...
HE'S MINE, TORO! GET LITTLE DAN!
GO BACK TO THE DARKNESS YOU CAME FROM!
ARRGH!
LITTLE DAN... MY BOY... MY BOY!
HE'S SAFE AND SOUND, MR. CARLISLE!
A MONTH LATER...
WHEN LITTLE DAN WAS TRAPPED IN THAT FLAMING TENEMENT, I AWAKENED TO THE DANGER OF THOSE FIRETRAPS! I'M RAZING THE TENEMENTS AND MOVING ALL MY TENANTS TO THESE NEW HOMES! SINCE LITTLE DAN IS BACK, THE SUN SHINES AGAIN FOR ME! I'M A CHANGED MAN... THANKS TO YOU, TORCH AND TORO!
THE END

MORE THRILL-A-MINUTE TALES WITH THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO IN MEN'S ADVENTURES! BUY YOUR COPY NOW!